

Testimony of Kim Estrada
Appropriations Committee
February 23, 2017

Good evening Connecticut Legislators and Senators and to whom else this may concern:

My name is Kim Estrada. I live in Waterbury, CT, and was born and raised there. I was employed at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington, CT, for a year as a housekeeper and had gotten hurt and went out on Workers' Compensation. While out on Workers' Compensation my landlord and I had a conversation about my situation and how I would be paying my rent. The following month, the next thing I knew, my landlord decided during a snowstorm while I had stayed at my sister's house only for a couple of days to just come into my apartment with some friends and start stealing, packing up, and destroying ALL of my belongings. A neighbor had called me to confirm that this was going on and I immediately tried calling my landlord, leaving messages and texting him with no response back. I NEVER gave him any indication that I wanted to leave my apartment, that I was going to leave or that I couldn't afford to pay my rent. He NEVER gave me any indication that there were any issues or that I was being evicted. I NEVER received any papers for anything! Two days later my sister brought me back to my apartment now that we could travel after the snow storm and my entire apartment was empty. My neighbor had informed me that my landlord had put everything, all of my belongings in the garage, however it was locked. I contacted my landlord and he said he would come by after work to unlock it. He did, however, that it when I discovered all that was stolen from me and that he had put the contents of my refrigerator with my things all in large garbage bags. My landlord denied what he did and told me to get my things out in a week and leave the keys or I would not receive my security deposit back. He kept my security deposit

anyways! After going thru this ordeal and talking with some friends to see what I could do about my landlord and what he did to me, my friends suggested that I call 211 Info Line and they then referred me to CLRP. I called CLRP, did an Intake and was contacted by Attorney Katrina Cessna. I had no car, so Attorney Cessna came to where I live each time to talk over my situation, sign documents and to assure me that I had some recourse against my landlord and the situation he put me in. If it was not for the organization CLRP, then my landlord would have gotten away with what he did to me. It's because CLRP helped me to bring my case into the legal system, and eventually I will have my day in court. Otherwise, landlords like mine have the ability to do whatever they want to the less fortunate and we just have to take it and live with it and start over again and again. Personally, I would not like to see an organization like CLRP go away, because then there would not be anywhere for the less fortunate to be able to get help, assistance and guidance from the slumlords of the world.

Thank you.